

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed October 24, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. Claims 17, 20, 25, 28, 33, 36, 42, and 43 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration.

Claims 18, 26, 29, 30, 32, and 34 have been canceled herein and claims 17, 25, and 33 have been amended to include aspects transferred from dependent claims. Claim 25 has been further amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §101 issue and is supported by at least Figure 4, element 5 of the Specification. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested. A listing of claims can be found on pages 2-4 of this Response.

Favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following comments.

I. Claim Objection

Claim 30 has been objected to. This claim has been canceled; its objection is moot.

II. Rejection of Claims 25, 26, 28-30, and 32 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 25, 26, 28-30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 26, 29, 30, and 32 have been canceled; their rejections are moot. As requested by the Examiner, independent claim 25 has been amended to tie the method to a particular apparatus, *i.e.*, “a control unit.” Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 17, 18, 20, 25, 26, 28-30, 32-34, 36, 42, and 43 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 17, 18, 20, 25, 26, 28-30, 32-34, 36, 42, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claims 29, 30, and 32 are canceled; their rejections are moot. The Examiner states that the Specification does not contain support for the aspects of “different compression method[s] ... at different quantization ratio[s]” and “same compression [methods] ... at different quantization ratio[s]” (*See* Final Office Action, pg. 3). The Applicant respectfully notes that the aspect of encoding with different compression methods is supported by at least

paragraph 0052 of the Specification (*e.g.*, “The encoding unit 35 may encode the components using different encoding methods.”). The aspect of encoding with a same compression method is supported by at least paragraph 0048 of the Specification (*e.g.*, “The encoding unit 35 may encode the image data read by the reading unit 31 as a whole.”). The aspect of encoding with different quantization ratios is supported by at least paragraph 0052 of the Specification (*e.g.*, “The encoding unit 35 may encode the components at different quantization ratios.”).

In view of the above, claims 17, 18, 20, 25, 26, 28, 33, 34, 36, 42, and 43 comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claims 17, 18, 20, 25, 26, 28-30, 32-34, 36, 42, and 43 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 17, 18, 20, 25, 26, 28-30, 32-34, 36, 42, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner contends that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the terms “the components of the text region, the drawing region, the photograph [region], and the background region” of the independent claims (*See* Final Office Action, pg. 4). The Applicant respectfully disagrees. These terms are introduced by the first element of independent claims 17, 25, and 33, “a text region, a drawing region, a photograph region, and a background region,” which provides antecedent basis for the subsequent uses of these terms, including “the text region and the drawing region” recited in claim 43. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

V. Rejection of Claims 17, 18, 20, 25, 26, 28-30, 32-34, 36, 42, and 43 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 17, 18, 20, 25, 26, 28-30, 32-34, 36, 42, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sato *et al.* (U.S. 2001/0028748) (“Sato”), in view of Navon *et al.* (U.S. 7,085,422) (“Navon”). It is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn at least because Sato and Navon do not teach or suggest all the limitations of these claims.

In particular, independent claim 17 recites “the encoding unit divides the image into a plurality of tiles and hierarchically encodes the plurality of tiles respectively into the code data.” Independent claims 25 and 33 recite analogous limitations. The limitations were transferred

from claims 18, 26, and 34 (now canceled). To provide a bit of context to the claims, it is noted that these features are directed to JPEG 2000. The Examiner does not indicate that Navon teaches this limitation, but cites Sato, which is directed to JPEG, not JPEG 2000, and therefore does not involve the tiles/components of the subject claims. A more detailed analysis of Sato is as follows.

The Examiner contends that Sato describes this aspect in paragraph 0004 (*See* Final Office Action, pg. 6). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Paragraph 0004 of Sato states the following:

In such a case, only part of the compression-coded data is transmitted to display the image at a resolution lower than the original resolution. For, e.g., JPEG that is a compression-coding scheme recommended by the ISO and ITU-T, a hierarchical encoding scheme is defined whereby an image can be decoded at a resolution lower than the original resolution by a factor of a power of 2.

In summary, paragraph 0004 of Sato explains that an image can be decoded at a lower resolution than the original resolution, which Sato refers to as a “hierarchical encoding scheme.” The lower resolution may be preferred in cases where the network does not have enough bandwidth to accommodate the higher resolution level without substantial delay. However, decoding an image at a lower resolution does not disclose the encoding scheme of the amended independent claims. Specifically, the cited paragraph is silent regarding “divid[ing] the image into a plurality of tiles” and is also silent regarding “hierarchically encod[ing] the plurality of tiles respectively into the code data” (*See* amended independent claims 17, 25, and 33). Sato does not describe if and how an image would be divided. Although Sato mentions the phrase “hierarchical encoding scheme,” this phrase likely refers to the difference between the resolutions of the original image (of higher resolution) and the decoded image (of lower resolution). However, the “hierarchical encoding scheme” does not correspond to hierarchically encoding the **tiles** of the image because Sato does not disclose that the image is split into tiles, much less that the hierarchy would apply to these tiles. For at least these reasons, Sato does not teach or suggest all the limitations of the amended independent claims, namely “the encoding unit divides the image into a plurality of tiles and hierarchically encodes the plurality of tiles respectively into the code data.”

The above arguments apply to the dependent claims by virtue of their dependencies on amended independent claims 17, 25, and 33. Thus, Sato and Navon, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

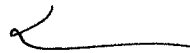
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: _____

12/23/08

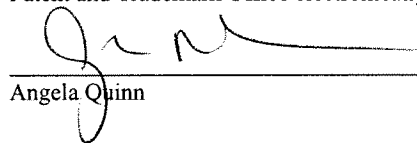


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Angela Quinn

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